

## Diaspora Studies Course - Diasporas y Fronteras in Llanes, Asturias

Report by Carmen Kilner

Adrian Bell, author of 'Only for Three Months'/ *Sólo serán tres meses*, was an invited speaker at the recent Diaspora Studies Course - *Diasporas y Fronteras* in Llanes, Asturias, which covered exiles from 1937 to the present day.

21-23 August. The two day course was held in the beautiful old *Casa Cultural de Llanes*. Llanes is a very attractive and historic fishing port and seaside resort in Asturias. As in previous years, the 2019 course was organised by José María Naharro Calderón of the University of Maryland. The aims of the course were set out as follows: '.....to study the complex historical and present day phenomena of borderlands, diasporas, displacements, and exiles that have shaped the history of humanity since remote times.'

Adrian's talk "*Sólo serán tres meses*": *Los niños vascos refugiados en el exilio de Inglaterra* was delivered in Spanish to a packed and engaged audience which included many academics and teachers. It was very well received and prompted several interventions and questions leading to a lively discussion.

Afterwards I was invited to say a few words about the foundation and aims of BCA'37 UK and was prompted to talk about our new undergraduate essay prize.

There were many other distinguished speakers attending the conference and Adrian's talk, so he was in excellent company. Among the audience was Bernardo Fernández Fernández whom some of you will remember as the very supportive and friendly consejero in the *Consejería de Trabajo y Asuntos Sociales* in London - a department of the Spanish Embassy. Although now retired to his native Asturias, he still follows our progress through the eNotices with keen interest. It was a delight to meet him again.



L-R: Bernardo Fernández, Adrian Bell, Ana Gaitero (of Diario de León) and Carmen Kilner